(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) Green peace and some of the other environment activists have drawn Governments attention towards alleged low yield of Bt. Cotton in the drought prone areas of Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The three Bt. Cotton hybrids have been introduced into the environment only in 2002-2003 and are presently under cultivation in Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh. The Bt. gene has been introduced specifically to control bollworm infestation. For the Kharif 2002 season, the Committees constituted by the Ministry visited some of the Bt. cotton fields. The Committees observation on the field situation on the basis of discussion with the farmers indicated that the performance of Bt. Cotton is satisfactory in terms of bollworm infestation and reduction in use of pesticide sprays.

Minimizing Pollution

3775. SHRI RAJU PARMAR :

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :

SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that air pollution due to increase in vehicular traffic in the metropolitan cities have increased during the last two years;

(b) if so, what are the complete details thereof, metro-wise; and

(c) whether Government propose to take adequate steps to minimize the pollution level on the basis of modern technology available in USA and other European countries, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) The ambient air quality monitoring data under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme has indicated a decrease in Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai during the year 2002 as compared to 2001. Sulphur dioxide (SO_2) levels were within National Ambient Air Quality (NAAQ) Standards. The Nitrogen dioxide (NOx) levels were also within the NAAQ Standards in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

(c) For control of pollution from various sources, emission norms are notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 which are based on best practicable technologies. The standards for vehicular pollution control, in particular, are comparable to European countries.

Pollution in Mumbai

3776. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether pollution is increasing in Mumbai and other metros in the country due to emission of smoke by vehicles driven with petrol and diesel;

(b) whether Government have carried out any survey regarding the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government proposes to start buses and autos with CNG in these Metropolitan cities specially Mumbai;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the manner in which Government propose to combat pollution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV) : (a) and (b) The ambient air quality monitoring is being carried out regularly in metro cities including Mumbai under the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme. The levels of pollution in ambient air have been showing a decreasing trend in Mumbai. The analysis of monitoring data has indicated a decrease in Respirable Suspended Particulate Matter (RSPM) in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Mumbai during the year 2002 as compared to 2001. The Sulphur dioxide (SO_2) levels were within the National Ambient Air Quality (NAAQ) Standards. The Nitrogen dioxide (NOx) level were also within the NAAQ Standards in Ahmedabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Delhi, Hyderabad and Mumbai.

(c) to (e) The steps initiated for reducing vehicular pollution in Mumbai include quality control of engines produced by vehicle manufacturers, improved quality of fuels, measures for traffic management, maintenance of vehicles and phasing of old vehicles. Action plan for reducing pollution levels includes conversion of vehicles to clean fuels such as Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)/Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG).